

## ***Secretary Norman Y. Mineta Attends MTSNAC Meeting***

**By Richard Lolich, Office of Ports and Domestic Shipping**

The Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC) met in Memphis, Tennessee, in September. One of the highlights of the meeting was a luncheon address by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. The Secretary thanked MTSNAC for all its work and advice, especially its recommendations on plans to revitalize the marine sector of the transportation system so that its infrastructure will be ready to accommodate the projected explosive growth in maritime trade by 2020. In his remarks, the Secretary emphasized the importance of the private sector in addressing the needs of the Marine Transportation System (MTS) as well as the important role for the newly created federal Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS).

The meeting was well attended and included stakeholders from many different sectors of the maritime industry. MTSNAC Chairman John Gaughan opened the meeting by asking for a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Several members of MTSNAC gave updates on the status of Gulf Coast ports. The maritime industry's quick response to the hurricanes demonstrated the importance of the maritime sector to the nation's transportation system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) addressed MTSNAC on the Corps' mission concerning civil works and the challenges faced by the inland transportation system. The presentation focused on the Corps' functions during times of emergency management, particularly the Corps' response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Corps also discussed how it collects and uses waterborne navigational data and the challenges the Corps faces in collecting and disseminating this data, which is the primary source of waterborne commerce data for other federal agencies, state, local agencies, and international use.

MTSNAC's Education Subcommittee presented the final version of its transportation supply chain tutorial to MTSNAC for approval and submission to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. The Intermodal Subcommittee provided its group's recommendations on the private- and public-sector roles in the MTS. The recommendations were divided into two parts—five recommendations for the public sector and five for the private sector. MTSNAC wants to bring national attention to the maritime industry's effect on the economy as a whole, while allowing regional variations to address the points of the public-private-sector planning process.

On the second day of the two-day meeting, MTSNAC was updated on a study highlighting the significance of the Gulf of Mexico to the nation. The study is sponsored by Gulf of Mexico States Accord (GOMSA), comprised of the U.S. states bordering the Gulf of Mexico as well as Mexico.

MTSNAC also was briefed on the new CMTS, which was formed earlier this year as a result of the President's Ocean Action Plan in 2004. The CMTS is comprised of ten cabinet-level departments and several independent federal agencies that have responsibility for the nation's MTS. The first meeting of the CMTS was convened by Secretary Mineta in July of this year in Washington, DC.

### ***MARAD Update***

The ***MARAD Update*** is published by the Maritime Administration's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. This publication is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. For more information or to submit questions or concerns, telephone (202) 366-5807, visit the MARAD website at [www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov), or e-mail [pao.marad@dot.gov](mailto:pao.marad@dot.gov).

**Publisher**

**John Jamian**

**Managing Editor**

**Susan Clark**

**Editor**

**Ella Thomas**